

**THE  
FRANCE I KNOW**

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The France I know by Winifred Stephens

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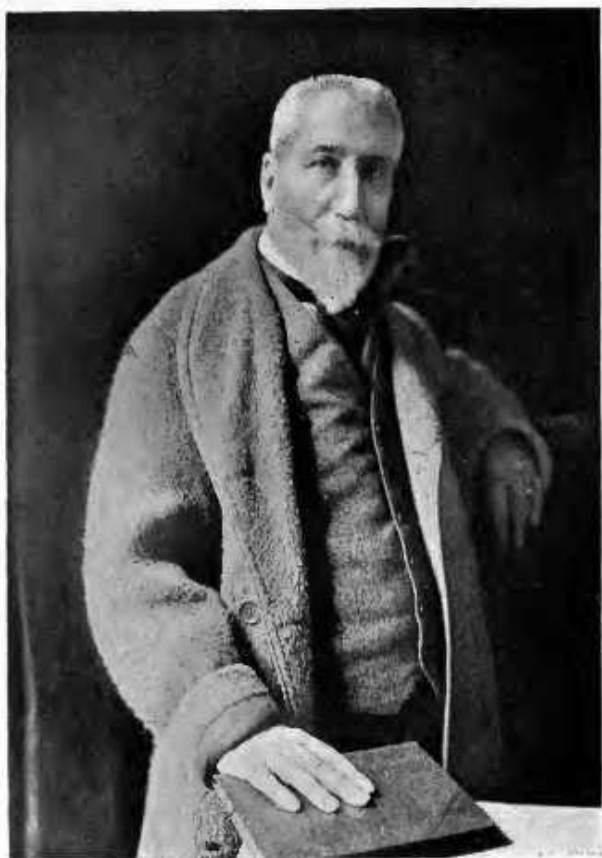
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**WINIFRED STEPHENS**

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Anatole France in 1914.

[*Frontispiece.*

# THE FRANCE I KNOW

BY

WINIFRED STEPHENS

*White*

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## FOREWORD

THIS book tells among other things of seven visits to France in War-time : three in the winter, spring, and summer of 1915, two in 1916, one in the autumn of 1917, and one in the spring of 1918. It recalls some passages in past French history suggested by this intermittent observation of the present, and—rashly perhaps—it endeavours to forecast certain phases of French national development after the War.

It will be found that, in dealing with Anglo-French relations, differences of temperament, opinion, and general attitude towards life are not ignored. They are referred to chiefly in order to show how marvellous has been the concord between two nations so diverse and so long separated in the past by rivalry and hostility. Their mutual forbearance and charity in circumstances which must have often strained those virtues almost to breaking point reflect the highest credit on both allies. Well do they augur for the fulfilment after this War of the wish Shakespeare put into the mouth of a French Queen at the close of an earlier conflict, terminated



by the marriage of an English King with a  
French Princess—

“ God, the best Maker of all marriages,  
Combine your hearts in one, your realms in one !  
As man and wife, being two, are one in love,  
So be there 'twixt your kingdoms such a spousal,  
That never may ill office, or fell jealousy . . .  
Thrust in between the paction of these kingdoms  
To make divorce of their incorporate league ;  
That English may as French, French Englishmen,  
Receive each other !—God speak this Amen ! ”

## CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. OUR BLUNDER ABOUT FRANCE . . . . .	1
II. FRENCH PATRIOTISM THROUGH THE AGES . . . . .	14
III. WAR IN THE WRITINGS OF ANATOLE FRANCE . . . . .	32
IV. AFTER THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE MARNE . . . . .	44
V. WITH THE FRENCH RED CROSS . . . . .	50
VI. TALKS BY THE WAY. . . . .	57
VII. THE PROVINCES ORGANISED FOR VICTORY . . . . .	76
VIII. IN THE BOOK WORLD OF PARIS . . . . .	87
IX. POLITICAL PARTIES IN FRANCE . . . . .	107
X. RELIGIOUS OPINION IN FRANCE . . . . .	121
XI. A NEW FRANCE . . . . .	182
XII. WOMAN'S POSITION IN FRANCE . . . . .	156
XIII. THE IDEALS OF GEORGE SAND . . . . .	164
XIV. THE CULT OF JEANNE D'ARC AND THE FRENCH- WOMAN'S WAR-WORK . . . . .	191
XV. THE NEW FRENCHWOMAN . . . . .	209
INDEX . . . . .	229

